

**2002 WINTER/SPRING/SUMMER SELECT AREA FISHERIES
FACT SHEET
Compact/Joint State Hearing
January 31, 2002**

<p>PURPOSE: Consider winter, spring, and summer commercial salmon seasons in Columbia River Select Fishing Areas of Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Youngs Bay.</p>
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2002 Management Considerations

Salmon Management

- Select Area fishery impacts to listed Columbia River salmon and steelhead have been addressed in the Section 7/10 Application submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on November 3, 2000.
- Impacts to listed spring and summer chinook in Select Area fisheries are included in non-Indian impacts set forth in the Interim Management Agreement for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye, and impacts to wild Willamette spring chinook are included in the Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP).
- Impacts to listed upriver spring chinook are considered part of the non-Indian 2% upriver impact limit allocated to non-Indian fisheries but are not included in the 0.68% upriver impact limit allocated to non-Indian mainstem commercial fisheries.

Sturgeon Allocation

- On April 12, 2000 commercial fishing industry leaders met to discuss the harvest of white sturgeon in Select Areas as it relates to the commercial allocation and arrived at the following consensus points:
 - 1) Select Area fisheries should be managed as salmon-directed fisheries.
 - 2) Use of gear (mesh size) restrictions should be adopted to target salmon, not sturgeon. New regulations should be phased in to limit economic impact on participating fishers.
 - 3) Enforcement presence is encouraged to ensure compliance of gear restrictions.
- At the June 8, 2000 public meeting, interested participants in Select Area fisheries discussed gear that would be appropriate for use in salmon-directed fisheries. Attendees at the meeting considered a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction to be appropriate for coho-directed fisheries and 7-inch or 8-inch maximum mesh size restrictions to be appropriate for chinook-directed fisheries.

SMOLT RELEASES AND EXPECTED RETURNS

Smolt Releases

<i>Releases of Willamette Stock Spring Chinook Smolts into Select Area Fishery Sites, 1990-2001</i>							
Year of Release	Number of Smolts Released				Total	Year of Return	
	Youngs Bay	Tongue Point	Blind Slough	Deep River		Age 4	Age 5
1990	54,300	--	--	--	54,300	1992	1993
1991	0	--	--	--	0	1993	1994
1992	31,700	--	--	--	31,700	1994	1995
1993	0	--	--	--	0	1995	1996
1994	411,300	--	--	--	411,300	1996	1997
1995	450,200	--	--	--	450,200	1997	1998
1996	451,100	242,300	199,400	--	892,800	1998	1999
1997	464,000	301,800	171,200	--	937,000	1999	2000
1998	456,300	253,800	248,700	56,400	1,015,200	2000	2001
1999	426,400	224,300	200,000	39,700	890,400	2001	2002
2000	464,700	250,000	196,400	0	911,100	2002	2003
2001	537,900	--	250,400	179,600	967,900	2003	2004

- During 1990-94, Youngs Bay smolts were released by Clatsop County Economic Development Council's (CEDC) Fisheries Project in cooperation with ODFW.
- Beginning with 1995 releases, the Select Area Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) Project funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has increased and expanded the spring chinook program. The SAFE Project created under the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, is an interagency (CEDC, WDFW, and ODFW) coalition whose goal is to create and expand known stock fisheries in the Columbia River Basin to allow harvest of strong stocks while protecting depressed stocks.
- Since 1996 smolt releases have stabilized at about 1 million smolts annually.

<i>Expected Returns of Adult Spring Chinook to Select Areas in 2002</i>			
Location	2001 Returns		2002
	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
Youngs Bay	5,900	6,200	5,700
Tongue Point	2,200	1,600	1,500
Blind Slough	1,500	900	800
Total	9,600	8,700	8,000

- Returns in 2002 are expected to be similar to actual returns in 2001.
- Adult returns in 2002 are expected to be comprised of similar numbers of age 4 and age 5 fish.
- A return of 8,000 adult spring chinook would be the second largest total return to Select Areas since the program was initiated in 1990.

Commercial Fisheries

- Fisheries were initiated in Youngs Bay in 1992 and in Tongue Point and Blind Slough in 1998.

<i>Landings in Select Area Commercial Fisheries, 1992-2001</i>					
Year	Fishery	Chinook		White Sturgeon	
		Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number
1992	Youngs Bay	3,348	296	381	10
1993	Youngs Bay	12,780	851	974	32
1994	Youngs Bay	2,218	156	758	31
1995	Youngs Bay	2,891	201	2,799	110
1996	Youngs Bay	9,421	789	14,203	581
1997	Youngs Bay	24,338	1,820	8,827	351
1998	Youngs Bay	34,031	2,128	6,729	257
	Tongue Point	484	31	2,169	79
	Blind Slough	702	60	488	19
		<u>35,217</u>	<u>2,219</u>	<u>9,386</u>	<u>355</u>
1999	Youngs Bay	19,183	1,298	4,863	170
	Tongue Point	2,822	198	6,695	259
	Blind Slough	5,962	458	2,448	94
		<u>27,967</u>	<u>1,954</u>	<u>14,006</u>	<u>523</u>
2000	Youngs Bay	55,278	4,721	6,452	259
	Tongue Point	12,310	958	5,794	227
	Blind Slough	11,110	818	1,543	44
		<u>78,698</u>	<u>6,497</u>	<u>13,789</u>	<u>530</u>
2001	Youngs Bay	85,297	5,591	8,874	322
	Tongue Point	24,221	1,618	3,869	137
	Blind Slough	30,774	2,044	692	27
		<u>140,292</u>	<u>9,253</u>	<u>13,435</u>	<u>486</u>

- The 2001 chinook catch of 9,300 fish in the combined fisheries exceeded the 2000 catch of 6,500 by more than 40%.
- White sturgeon catch of 486 fish in the 2001 combined fisheries was slightly less than the 2000 catch of 535 fish.

<i>Stock Composition of the Select Area Commercial Chinook Landings</i>								
Year	Fishery	Local	Stock Component (%)			Wild Impacts		
			Lower River	Upriver	Total	Snake River	Upper Columbia R	Willamette River
1992	Youngs Bay	245 (83%)	44 (15%)	7 (2%)	296	1		
1993	Youngs Bay	496 (58%)	343 (40%)	12 (<2%)	851	1		
1994	Youngs Bay	128 (82%)	26 (17%)	2 (1%)	156	0		
1995	Youngs Bay	187 (93%)	14 (7%)	0 (0%)	201	0		
1996	Youngs Bay	705 (89%)	71 (9%)	13 (<2%)	789	1		
1997	Youngs Bay	1,612 (89%)	189 (10%)	19 (1%)	1,820	1		
1998	Youngs Bay	1,920 (90%)	184 (9%)	24 (1%)	2,128	6		
	Tongue Point	24 (80%)	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	31	1		
	Blind Slough	57 (95%)	3 (5%)	0 (0%)	60	0		
		<u>2,002 (90%)</u>	<u>190 (9%)</u>	<u>27 (1%)</u>	<u>2,197</u>	<u>7</u>		
1999	Youngs Bay	1,012 (78%)	270 (21%)	16 (1%)	1,298	1		
	Tongue Point	167 (84%)	24 (12%)	7 (4%)	198	<1		
	Blind Slough	351 (77%)	105 (23%)	2 (<1%)	458	<12		
		<u>1,530 (78%)</u>	<u>399 (21%)</u>	<u>25 (1%)</u>	<u>1,954</u>	<u>2</u>		
2000	Youngs Bay	3,977 (84%)	703	41 (1%)	4,71	3		
	Tongue Point	812 (85%)	140	6 (<1%)	958	<1		
	Blind Slough	726 (89%)	92	0 (0%)	818	0		
		<u>5,515 (85%)</u>	<u>935 (14%)</u>	<u>47 (<1%)</u>	<u>6,497</u>	<u>3</u>		
2001	Youngs Bay	5,126 (92%)	261 (5%)	172 (3%)	5,591	44	4	25
	Tongue Point	1,746 (85%)	259 (13%)	38 (2%)	2,044	10	1	17
	Blind Slough	1,234 (76%)	151 (9%)	199 (12%)	1,618	51	5	12
		<u>8,106 (88%)</u>	<u>671 (7%)</u>	<u>409 (4%)</u>	<u>9,253</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>54</u>

- Based on visual stock identification (VSI) determination and coded-wire-tag (CWT) recoveries, upriver spring chinook comprised at most, 2% of the catch during 1992-2000.
- In 2001 upriver spring chinook comprised 4% of the total catch.
- Catches of upriver spring chinook were within guidelines and expectations of the biological opinions issued by the NMFS.
- Catches in Select Areas of 105 Snake River wild, 10 upper Columbia River wild, and 54 Willamette River wild represent 0.15%, 0.09%, and 0.7% of the respective runs.

2001 Commercial Landings

<i>Select Area Commercial Landings in Numbers of Fish, February - July, 2001</i>						
Fishing Period	Youngs Bay		Tongue Point/South Channel		Blind Sl./Knappa Sl.	
	Chinook	W. Sturgeon	Chinook	W. Sturgeon	Chinook	W. Sturgeon
Feb. 19-23	137	0	44	0	2	0
Feb. 26-March 2	119	0	80	1	8	0
March 5-9	288	0	0	0	4	0
April 2-3	Season Closed		Season Closed		70	0
April 9-10	"	"	"	"	167	0
April 16-20	1,901	7	560	21	530	4
April 23-27	796	2	411	1	251	1
April 30 - May 4	584	14	152	11	320	7
May 7-11	615	15	133	18	209	3
May 14-18	266	16	11	29	183	10
May 21-25	114	26	61	14	61	1
May 29-June 1	117	13	21	11	213	0
June 4-8	37	26	27	13	23	1
June 11-14	30	2	17	18	3	0
June 18-20	42	7	Season Closed		Season Closed	
June 25-27	59	96	"	"	"	"
July 2-3	10	21	"	"	"	"
July 9-10	87	21	"	"	"	"
July 16-17	28	5	"	"	"	"
July 23-24	150	14	"	"	"	"
July 30-31	211	7	"	"	"	"
Season Total	5,591	322	1,618	137	2,044	27
Days Open	45		18		21	

- Winter season landings in Youngs Bay were the highest in the program with 544 spring chinook landed.
- Blind Slough winter season landings were less than expected with only 14 spring chinook landed.
- Spring chinook catch peaked during late April and early May.
- Opening day fish ticket counts during April 16-20 of 98 at Youngs Bay, 53 at Tongue Point/South Channel, and 36 at Blind Slough/Knappa Slough were the highest of the season at each site.
- The summer fishery in Youngs Bay (June 18-July 31) totaled 587 chinook (444 SAB, 138 spring chinook, and five summer chinook).

Past Recreational Fisheries

- Except for 1998, spring chinook catches in Youngs Bay have been minor (less than 10 fish) with little interest generated. In 1998, clear water conditions produced significant angler effort and catch of 55 chinook in April.

- In Blind Slough and Knappa Slough a very successful sport fishery was initiated in 2000. An estimated 615 angler days produced a catch of 121 chinook.
- The 2001 return of spring chinook to Select Areas coincided with a record large upriver run. The mainstem Columbia River was open in April for the first time since 1977 and sport sampling efforts focussed on the mainstem fishery; therefore, no catch and effort estimates are available for Select Areas in 2001.

2002 SELECT AREA COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSALS

A public meeting was held in Astoria, Oregon on Wednesday January 23, 2002. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit input from interested participants concerning 2002 winter, spring, and summer fishery recommendations. Input received was considered by staff in developing fishery recommendations for the winter, spring, and summer of 2002.

Fishery Objectives

- Maximize commercial harvest while providing quality sport fishing opportunity.
- Minimize impacts on nonlocal chinook and steelhead.

Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are concurrent jurisdiction waters and require Compact action.
- A license from either Oregon or Washington is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following season for the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area for the spring of 2002.	
Spring Season:	Thursday nights during April 18 through April 26 and Tuesday and Thursday nights during April 30 through June 12 (15 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 5 AM (10 hours).
Area:	Tongue Point and South Channel areas (see map).
Gear:	In the Tongue Point fishing area restrict gear to 8-inch maximum mesh size, net to maximum length of 250 fathoms, and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area restrict gear to 8-inch maximum mesh size, net to maximum length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Participants in the Tongue Point fishery may have stored onboard their boat, gill nets with leadline in excess of two pounds per any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ Winter fishing opportunity will occur in conjunction with mainstem fishery.
- ✓ Spring season fishing periods are recommended to occur in conjunction with Blind Slough/Knappa Slough fishing periods at Industries' request to develop more orderly fisheries.

- ✓ Spring season may be modified depending on mainstem season during late April and May.
- ✓ 8-inch maximum mesh size is recommended to target salmon not sturgeon.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.
- ✓ Special transportation permits have not been required since the 1999 spring season.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following seasons for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area for the winter and spring of 2002.	
Winter Season:	Monday nights from February 18 through March 5 (3 nights). Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Thursday nights during April 18 through April 26 and Tuesday and Thursday nights during April 30 through June 12. (15 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Blind Slough area only open during winter season and Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas open during spring season (see map).
Gear:	An 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction is recommended during the winter fishery to target large age 5 chinook while minimizing handle of smaller steelhead. An 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended during the spring fishery to target salmon, not sturgeon. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations would be in effect.

- ✓ The winter season is recommended to target early arrivals of age 5 spring chinook.
- ✓ Spring season fishing periods are recommended to occur in conjunction with Tongue Point Basin/South Channel openings at Industries' request to develop more orderly fisheries.
- ✓ Spring season in Knappa Slough may be modified depending on mainstem seasons during late April and May.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.
- ✓ Special transportation permits have not been required since the 1999 spring season.

Deep River Fishery

- No commercial season is recommended based on poor return expectation. Test fishing will be conducted for research purposes and to monitor the return.

Youngs Bay Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following seasons for the Youngs Bay Select Area for the winter, spring, and summer of 2002.	
Winter Season:	Noon Wednesday February 20 - 6 pm Friday February 22 (2 days) Noon Wednesday February 27 - 6 pm Friday March 1 (2 days) Noon Wednesday March 6 - 6 pm Friday March 8 (2 days)
Spring Season:	Noon Wednesday April 17 - 6 pm Friday April 19 (2 days) Noon Wednesday April 24 - 6 pm Friday April 26 (2 days) Noon Tuesday April 30 - 6 pm Friday May 3 (3 days) Noon Monday May 6 - 6 pm Friday May 10 (4 days) Noon Monday May 13 - 6 pm Friday May 17 (4 days) Noon Monday May 20 - 6 pm Friday May 24 (4 days) Noon Monday May 27 - 6 pm Friday May 31 (4 days) Noon Monday June 3 - 6 pm Friday June 7 (4 days) Noon Monday June 10 - 6 pm Thursday June 13 (3 days)
Summer Season	Noon Wednesday June 19 - 6 pm Friday June 21 (2 days) Noon Wednesday June 26- 6 pm Friday June 28 (2 days) Noon Wednesday July 3- 6 pm Thursday July 4 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 10- 6 pm Thursday July 11 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 17- 6 pm Thursday July 18 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 24- 6 pm Thursday July 25 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 31- 6 pm Thursday August 1 (1 day)
Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers (see map).
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season. 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction in effect during the spring and summer seasons. Restrict net to maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special permit would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ The 6-day winter fishery will target the first arrivals of the age 5 component of the run prior to the time when significant interceptions of nonlocal chinook stocks occur.
- ✓ The 30-day spring fishery opening in late April with two, 2-day fishing periods followed by an increasing progression of fishing days through the season is designed to maximize the harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts on nonlocal stocks.
- ✓ The 9-day summer fishery during June 8 - July 31 is recommended to provide harvest opportunity on early returning SAB stock fall chinook and remaining local spring chinook.

- ✓ Fishing periods late in week during summer season were requested by commercial industry representatives to facilitate direct sales to public by commercial fishers.
- ✓ Since 1979, transportation of catch by fishers out of Youngs Bay during the mainstem closed season has been prohibited. Special transportation rules have not been in effect since the 1999 spring season.

2002 SELECT AREA SPORT FISHERY REGULATIONS

Permanent Oregon angling regulations for waters within the select areas of Youngs Bay, Tongue Point Basin and South Channel, and Blind Slough and Knappa Slough are listed in the 2002 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet and are open to chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose clipped coho the entire year.

Permanent Washington sport fishing rules list waters of Deep River open to chinook salmon, fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.

Joint Staffs
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
January 31, 2002

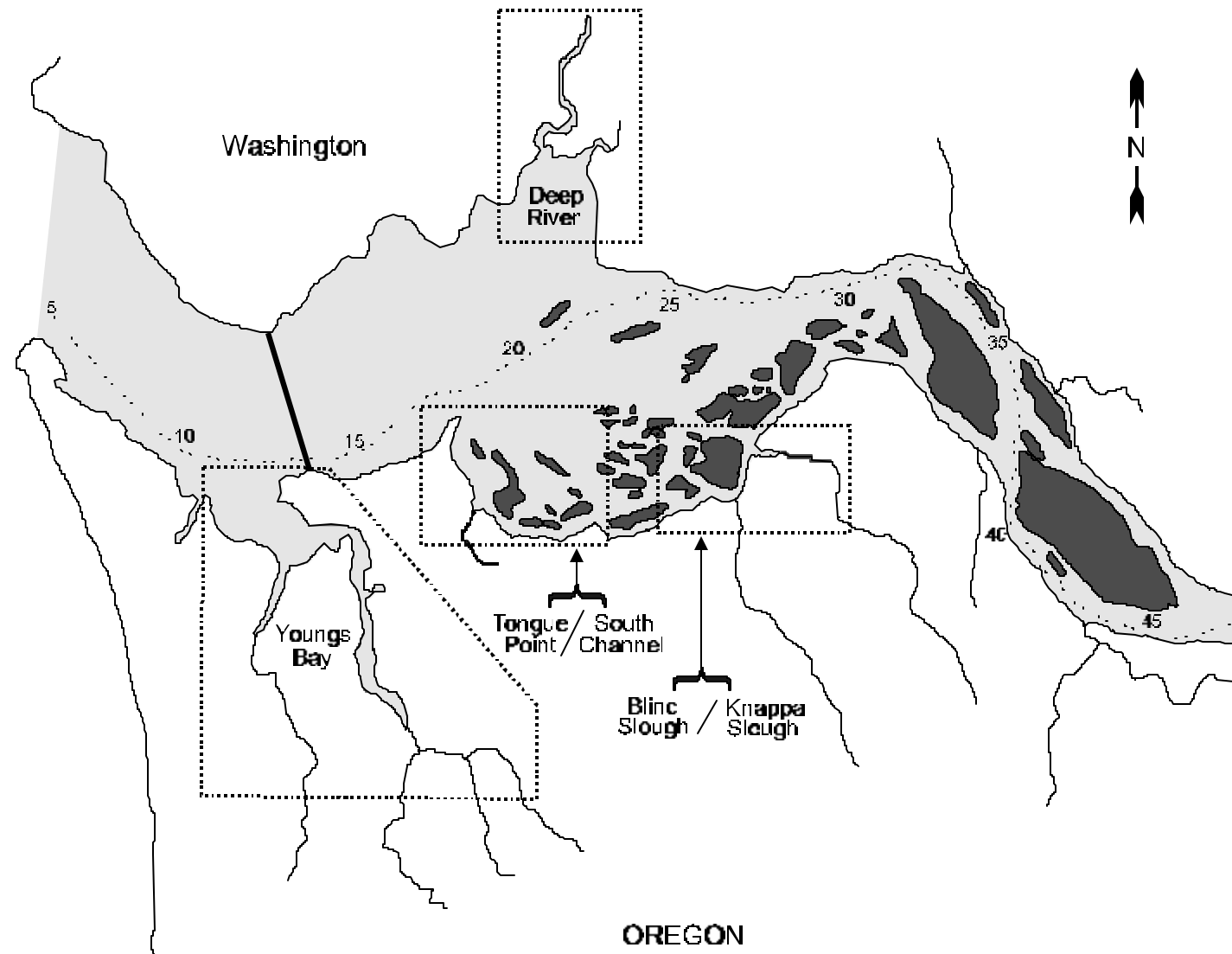


Figure 1. Select Area Fishery Locations

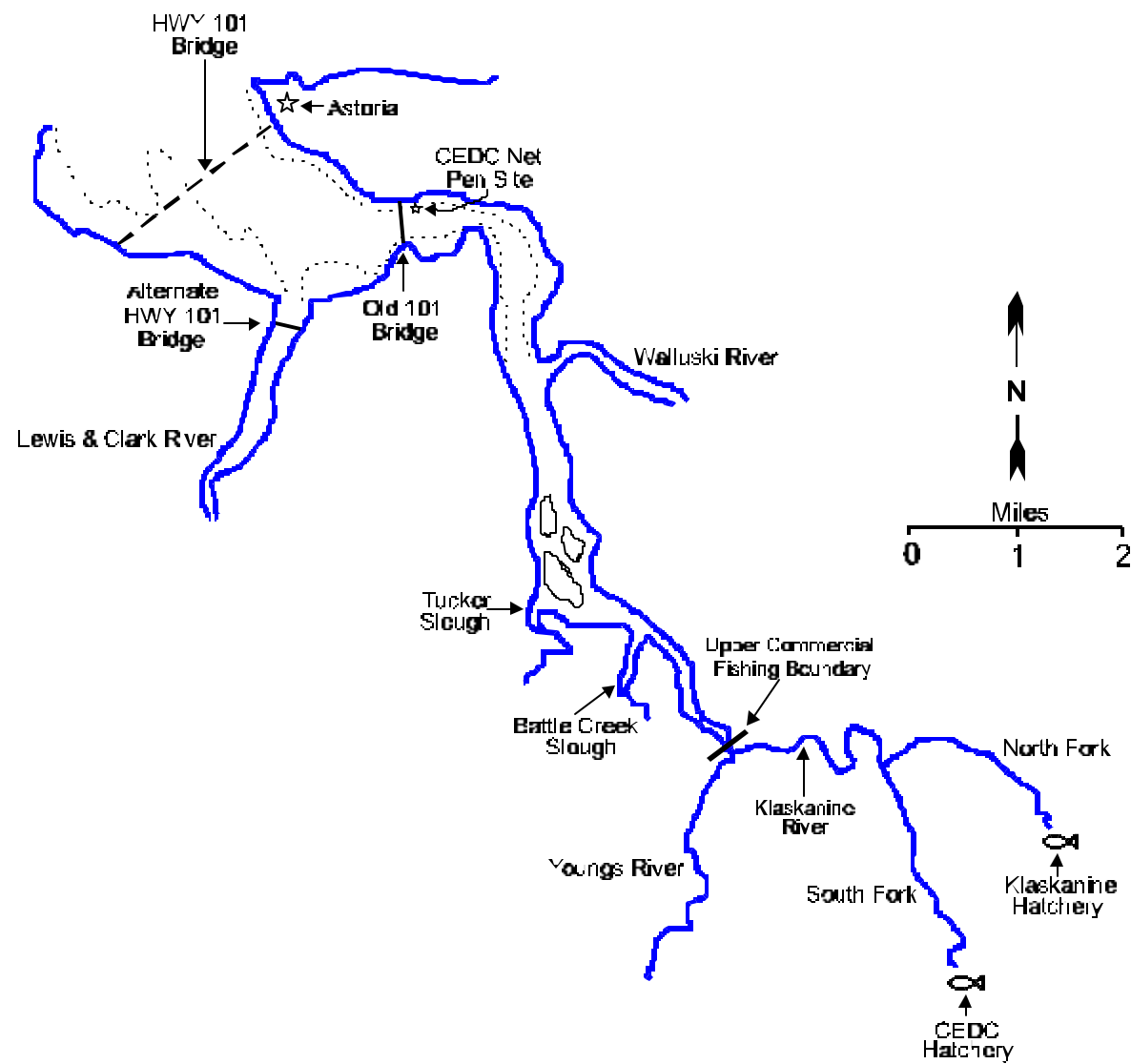


Figure 2. Youngs Bay Select Area Fishery Site.

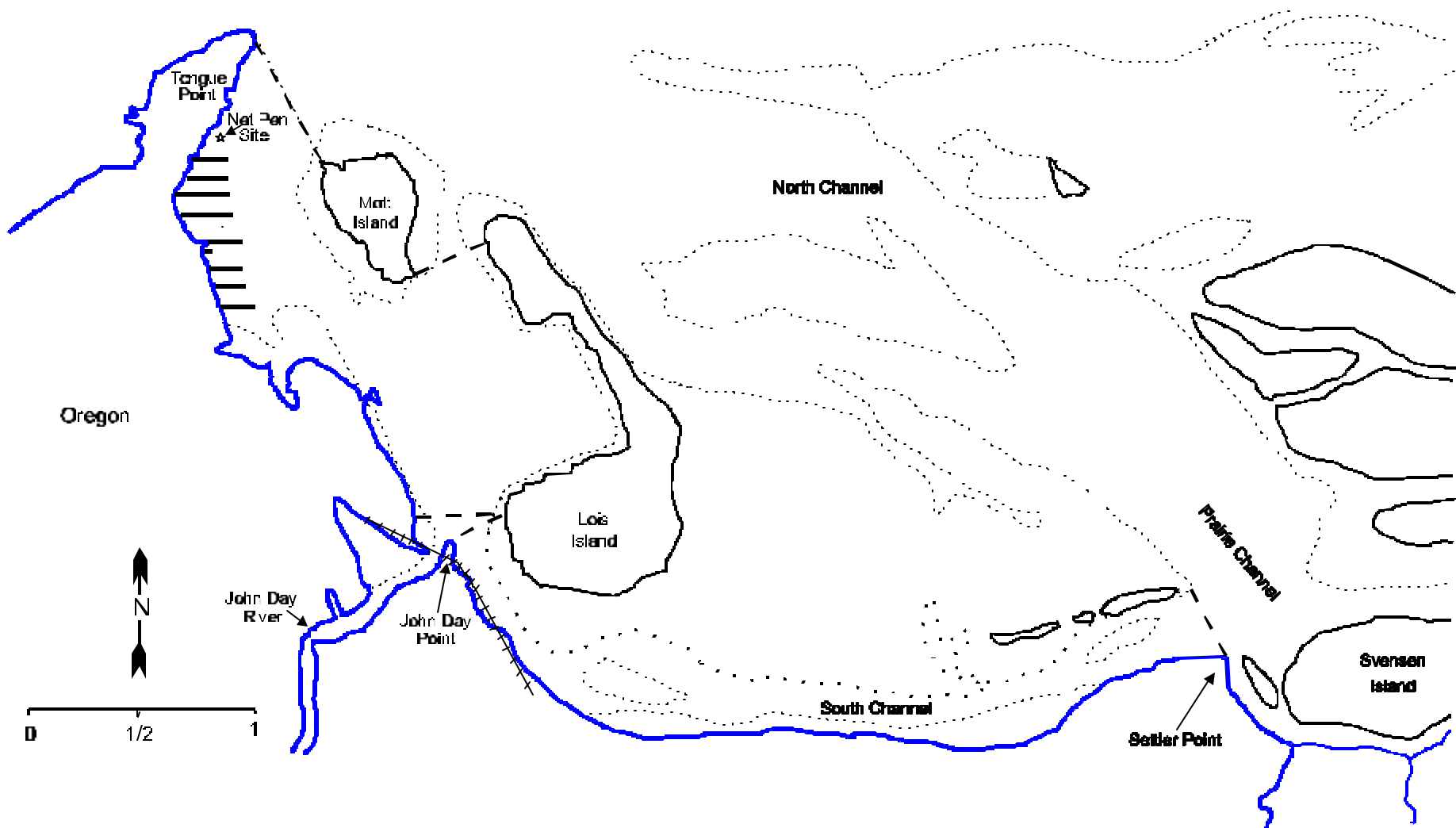


Figure 3. Tongue Point Basin/South Channel Select Area Fishery Site.

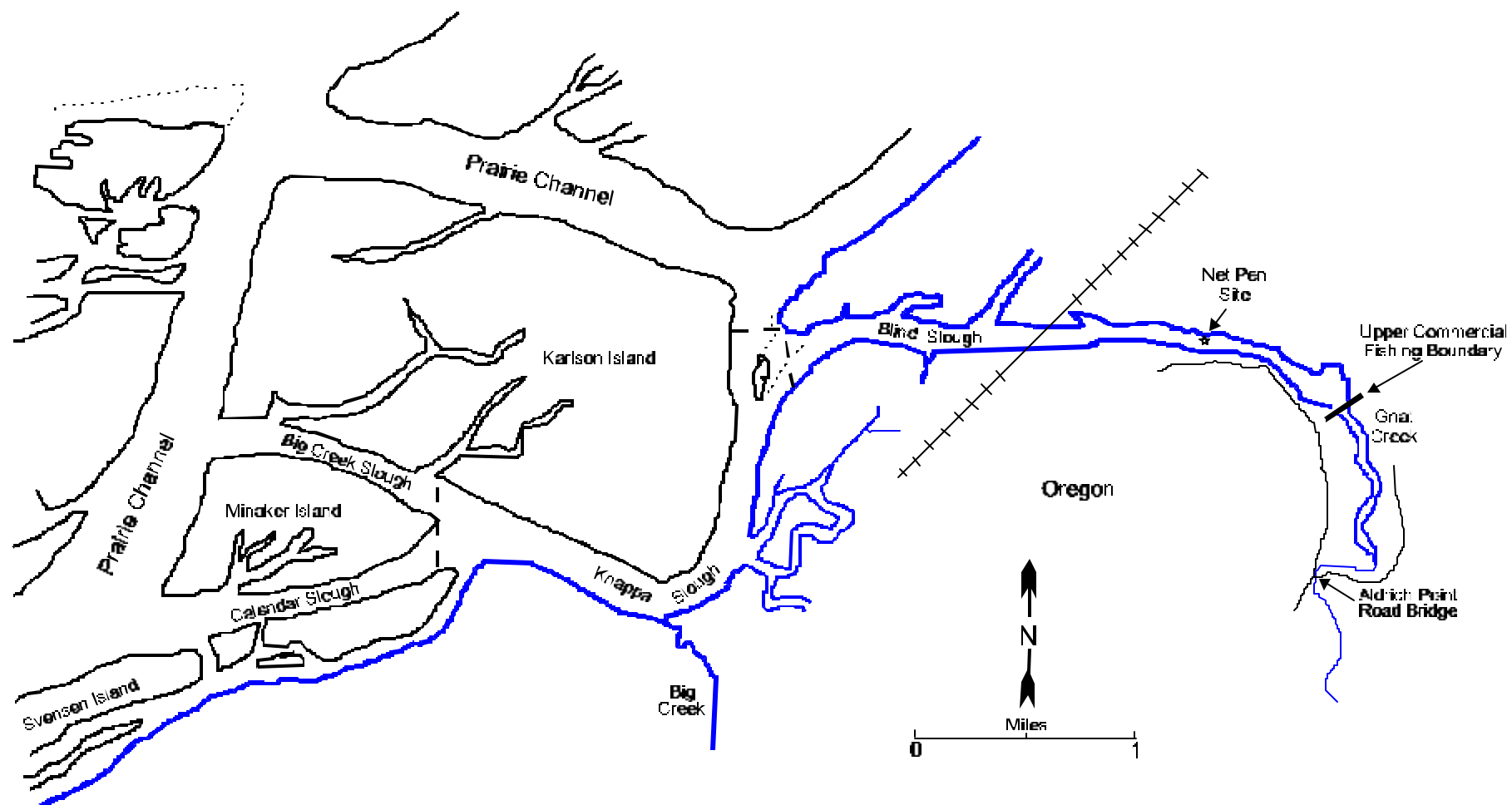


Figure 4. Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area Fishery Site.

